

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

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MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, MEMBERS
OF THE FACULTY, HONORED GRADUATES, MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY,
AND FRIENDS OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY -----

IT HAS BEEN 62 YEARS SINCE I CAME TO THIS CAMPUS IN
1921, THE YEAR THE STADIUM OPENED, AND 18 YEARS SINCE I
GAVE A COMMENCEMENT CHAT TO THE GRADUATES IN THE SUMMER OF
1965! FOOTBALL MANIA HAS BEEN SUSTAINED AT THE HIGHEST
LEVELS AND WE HAVE HAD OUR FAIR SHARE OF ALL-AMERICANS AND
HEISMAN TROPHY WINNERS. DURING THIS TIME OUR FACULTY AND
GRADUATES FROM ALL 15 COLLEGES HAVE ALSO GAINED INCREASING
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AND IN 1983, AN
OHIO STATE GRADUATE WON A NOBEL PRIZE. I CONGRATULATE EACH
AND EVERYONE OF YOU ON THIS OCCASION, WHICH IS A MILESTONE
IN YOUR BEGINNING CAREERS. THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY IS
PROUD OF YOUR RECORD AND JOINS YOU IN EXPRESSING

APPRECIATION TO YOUR FAMILY AND OTHERS WHO HAVE MADE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT ENSURED YOUR PRESENCE HERE TODAY.

BEFORE THE BLOOM OF GRADUATION FADES, IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO ESTABLISH SOME LONG-TERM GOALS FOR YOURSELF AND PLAN HOW THESE MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION YOUR OWN DESIRES AND ESTIMATED CAPABILITIES. FIRST, YOUR FIELD OF ENDEAVOR SHOULD BE FUN. PERSONALLY, I NEVER CONSIDERED GENERAL SURGERY WORK. SECOND, YOU MUST TAKE TIME TO REALISTICALLY EVALUATE HOW YOU STACK UP AGAINST OTHERS IN YOUR AGE RANGE WITH COMPARABLE EXPERIENCE. OPTIMISM AND A SENSE OF HUMOR ARE HELPFUL, BUT PERSONAL SACRIFICE OF FREE TIME TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOAL IS A MUST! YOU CAN USUALLY ACCOMPLISH YOUR GOALS, ALTHOUGH SOME, INCLUDING YOU, MAY THINK THEY ARE IMPOSSIBLE. I ALWAYS RECALL THE WORDS OF NAPOLEON WHEN HIS CRITICS SAID IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE FRENCH TROOPS TO MARCH UP ALONG THE NILE RIVER IN EGYPT, BECAUSE OF THE SURROUNDING DESERT. NAPOLEON SAID: "IMPOSSIBLE IS NOT A FRENCH WORD," AND I WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE WORD

IMPOSSIBLE NOT BE RECOGNIZED BY THE MEMBERS OF THIS CLASS OF GRADUATES! I RECALL THAT A "C" IN SURGERY DIDN'T KEEP ME FROM BOASTING THAT SOME DAY I WOULD RETURN AS CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT. HOWEVER, IT TOOK ME 19 YEARS IN TWO OTHER UNIVERSITIES TO REACH THAT GOAL! IT ALWAYS PAYS TO AIM HIGH, DESPITE TEMPORARY SETBACKS, IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH YOUR GOAL.

AS GRADUATES YOU WILL BE ENCOUNTERING MANY SOCIETAL SHIFTS IN EMPHASIS, ESPECIALLY IN THE ROLE OF WOMEN. AS WOMEN EXPAND THE SCOPE OF THEIR ACTIVITIES, THE MALE OF OUR SPECIES WILL ENCOUNTER GREATER COMPETITION EACH YEAR. FOR CENTURIES WE HAVE REALIZED THAT WOMEN EXCEL IN WRITING. THE BEST SELLING NOVEL OF ALL TIMES WAS "VALLEY OF THE DOLLS," WRITTEN BY A WOMAN, AND SOLD MORE THAN 20 MILLION COPIES. THAT'S COMPETITION! WOMEN CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE THAT THEY MUST BE SUPERIOR IN THEIR FIELD IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY COMPETE WITH MEN. WOMEN ARE GOING MORE INTO MATHEMATICS AND SCIENTIFIC FIELDS. BEFORE LONG, ONE-HALF OF THE

STUDENTS IN OUR PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS MAY BE WOMEN, A TREND
QUITE PREVALENT IN EUROPE AND RUSSIA. THIS IS NOT THE TIME NOR
THE PLACE TO THEORIZE ON THE EFFECT THESE FACTORS WILL HAVE ON
THE HOME, BUT DESIGNERS OF KITCHEN APRONS LIKE BILL BLASS
MAY HAVE TO PLEASE MEN MORE THAN WOMEN IN THE FUTURE. MORE
WOMEN WILL HAVE INCOMES GREATER THAN THE FORMER "SO-CALLED"
HEAD OF THE HOUSE, AND MANY ADJUSTMENTS IN THE WAYS OF DAILY
LIFE MAY NEED TO BE ALTERED.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU MAINTAIN AN OPTIMISTIC
OUTLOOK, BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE. I ADMIT TO CONSIDERABLE
CONCERN ABOUT OUR MEDIA THAT MAY CONCERN ITSELF ALL WEEK
WITH THE ANTICIPATED BAD WEATHER FOR THE COMING WEEKEND,
OR THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WORLD BY ATOMIC ENERGY, STARVATION
FROM FAILURE TO CONSERVE PARK LAND, THE CREATION OF A
FEELING OF GUILT FOR OUR COUNTRY WHEN ALMOST EVERYONE IN
THE UNITED NATIONS VOTES AGAINST US; ABOUT THE WEAK POINTS
OF THE POLITICIANS WHO SPEND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO BE

ELECTED TO AN OFFICE THAT PAYS LESS THAN PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES
MAKE IN ONE MONTH, AND MANY OTHER TOPICS OF GLOOM. I GUESS
IT IS HARD TO GET A BY-LINE BY SAYING SOMETHING IS AT LEAST
PRETTY GOOD, BUT WE SHOULD BE HAPPIER THAN WE APPEAR TO BE
WITH OUR LOT. ONE OF THE VALUES OF AN EDUCATION IS TO BE
ABLE TO THINK FOR YOURSELF AND NOT BE POLARIZED INTO
QUICKLY JOINING THE DOOMSAYERS OF THE MOMENT.

THIS COUNTRY IS GREAT BECAUSE WE ARE A MIXTURE WITH
ROOTS FROM EVERY COUNTRY AROUND THE GLOBE. IN FACT, I'LL
WAGER THERE ARE RELATIVELY FEW IN THE CLASS WHO CAN ACCURATELY
TRACE THEIR FAMILY TREE. THE WORLD WOULD LIKE TO LIVE AS
WE DO AND SOMETIMES LEADERS GET AMBITIOUS TO TAKE US ON
BY DEPLETING OUR SPECIFIC RESOURCES AND INFLUENCING OUR
PEOPLE TO CHAMPION THEIR PIECE-MEAL CONCEPTS FOR WORLD
DOMINATION. EVERYTIME I GO TO A FOOTBALL GAME MY MOST
EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE AS AN OLD SOLDIER IS WHEN I SEE THE
STARS AND STRIPES RAISED AT THE SOUTH END OF THE OVAL.

IT HAS BEEN MY PRIVILEGE TO VISIT A GOOD MANY COUNTRIES AND HAVE FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD WHO CAN "TELL IT LIKE IT IS" AND THEY INVARIABLY HAVE GENUINE ADMIRATION FOR THE UNPREDICTABLE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES.

WHEN I THINK OF CRITIZING MY PROFESSION, MY UNIVERSITY, OR MY OWN COUNTRY, I ALWAYS THINK OF THE WORDS OF THE LATE JACOB TAYLOR, A FORMER TREASURER OF THIS UNIVERSITY. HE SAID: "I UNDERSTAND YOUR POINT OF VIEW AND OF COURSE DEFEND YOUR RIGHT TO HAVE DIVERGENT VIEWS, BUT REGARDING THE PROBLEM YOU PRESENT ME, GIVE ME TWO SOLUTIONS, ONE OF WHICH IS BOUND TO WORK!" JUST REMEMBER LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT IS VERY DOUBTFUL THAT YOU CAN FIND A MONUMENT ERECTED TO THE CHRONIC CRITIC OR PESSIMIST!

WE ARE LIVING IN A TIME WHEN EVIDENCE OF CONTINUED EDUCATION IS DESIRABLE AND INDEED RE-EXAMINATION FOR COMPETENCE HAS BECOME COMMONPLACE IN MANY FIELDS OF ENDEAVOR. TODAY YOU ARE EITHER LEAVING OR CROSSING THE

FIRST ACADEMIC HURDLE AND WE FEEL SECURE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN INNOCULATED WITH THE CONCEPT OF CONTINUING YOUR EDUCATION EITHER BY SEEKING ADVANCED DEGREES OR BY KEEPING UP-TO-DATE WITH THE LITERATURE AND ATTENDING MEETINGS IN YOUR CHOSEN FIELD OF ENDEAVOR. THIS UNIVERSITY AND ITS BRANCHES HAVE MADE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO PROVIDE CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR ALL OF US.

NOT ONLY MUST YOU CONTINUE YOUR OWN EDUCATION, BUT IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER THAT YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE EDUCATION OF YOUR CHILDREN. ONE OF THE MOST COMMON COMPLAINTS OF DEVOTED SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS IS THE INCREASING LACK OF PARENTAL CONCERN WHICH, WHEN IT IS PRESENT, ENSURES A DISCIPLINED STUDENT WHO IS FAR BETTER PREPARED FOR COLLEGE THAN WE WERE. YOU SHOULD SUPPORT THE TEACHER WHO INSISTS ON DAILY HOMEWORK AND WHO SEES IN YOUR OFFSPRING A POTENTIAL CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO INCREASED DEMANDS. I AM CONVINCED EVERY HOME WILL SOON HAVE A SMALL COMPUTER WHICH

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MAY BE BETTER UNDERSTOOD BY THE FIRST GRADER IN THE FAMILY THAN BY THE PARENTS. MAKING THINGS EASIER FOR YOUR CHILDREN THAN THEY WERE FOR YOU IS A COMMON AND NATURAL DESIRE. HOWEVER, I HAVE SEEN TOO MANY FATHERS AND MOTHERS DISTRESSED BECAUSE THEIR WONDERFUL BOY OR GIRL WHO MADE THE DEAN'S LIST IN COLLEGE FAILED TO GAIN ADMISSION TO A GRADUATE SCHOOL DUE TO THE LACK OF BASIC FUNDAMENTAL COURSES THEY SHOULD HAVE HAD DURING THEIR EARLY COLLEGE YEARS. FREEDOM OF CHOICE IS AN IDEAL CONCEPT FOR OUR CHILDREN, BUT WHO AMONG US DOESN'T NEED TO DISCUSS OUR PROBLEMS AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROS AND CONS OF OUR DESIRES WHILE THERE IS TIME TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS?

IT IS REASSURING THAT OUR GREAT UNIVERSITY ALREADY HAS PLANNED TO DEMAND MORE EXPERIENCE IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES, MATHEMATICS, SOCIAL STUDIES, AND ENGLISH, THAN IN FORMER YEARS. IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT SO FEW OF US IN THIS COUNTRY CAN SPEAK ONLY ONE LANGUAGE. YOU HARDLY NEED TO BE REMINDED

THAT JET TRAVEL HAS MADE OUR GLOBE A LOT SMALLER. HOW CAN WE UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN BUSINESS AND POLITICS UNLESS WE CAN HAVE A FREE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS IN THE NATIVE TONGUE OF THE COUNTRY INVOLVED! PERSONALLY I AM ASHAMED OF THE FACT THAT I CAN'T CARRY ON A CONVERSATION EXCEPT IN ENGLISH! THOSE OF YOU WITH SOME COMPETENCE IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE--KEEP YOUR CAPACITY CURRENT. BE SURE YOUR CHILDREN MEET THE CHALLENGE OF A SECOND LANGUAGE IN A CHANGING WORLD!

SOME CONCERNS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED THAT SO MANY OHIO STATE GRADUATES LEAVE THE STATE TO TAKE POSITIONS ELSEWHERE. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE OF THE GRADUATES OF THE PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS. IN PART THIS MAY BE DUE TO THE DESIRE TO SEEK WARMER CLIMATES AS WELL AS FIND JOBS WITH HIGHER SALARIES. THE STRESS OF ECONOMIC SURVIVAL HAS MADE RECENT GRADUATES MORE LIKELY TO BE INFLUENCED BY THE IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL REWARD THAN THE LONG-TERM POTENTIAL OF A POSITION WHICH MAY PAY LESS INITIALLY, BUT OFFERS BETTER OPPORTUNITIES

IN THE LONG RUN.

IN A RECENT CASUAL CONVERSATION, AN AERONAUTIC ENGINEER ASSOCIATED WITH A LARGE MANUFACTURING COMPANY IN A RESEARCH CAPACITY VOLUNTEERED THE OPINION THAT HIS SON WHO WAS ABOUT TO GRADUATE AS AN ENGINEER, MIGHT DO BETTER TO SEEK A POSITION IN A SMALLER COMPANY. THE ENGINEER EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE BIG COMPANIES WITH MANY ADMINISTRATIVE LEVELS ARE BECOMING MORE AND MORE LIKE BIG GOVERNMENT, PRESENTING AN INCREASED VOLUME OF PAPER WORK BUT LESS LIKLIHOOD THAT THE POTENTIAL OF NEW EMPLOYEES WILL BE RECOGNIZED. BUSINESS TODAY IN ORDER TO SURVIVE HAS TENDED TO TRIM AWAY THE FAT AND DEMAND MORE OF EACH EMPLOYEE. PREFERENCE MUST BE GIVEN TO THOSE WHO HAVE DEVELOPED SPECIAL SKILLS AS A RESULT OF ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION. A COLLEGE DEGREE ALONE DOESN'T HAVE THE CLOUT IT HAD IN FORMER YEARS. I WOULD URGE YOU TO CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION EITHER GENERALLY OR IN THE FIELD OF YOUR

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CHOICE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!

THE GRADUATES OF TODAY MUST ALSO BE MORE AWARE OF THEIR OWN FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY. MODERN MEDICAL ADVANCES AND PERHAPS THE 40-HOUR WEEK HAVE LED TO A PROLONGATION OF LIFE WELL BEYOND THE BIBLICAL THREE SCORE AND TEN. FROM MY VANTAGE POINT I WOULD LIKE THAT FIGURE MOVED UP MUCH MORE THAN TEN, OR PREFERABLY TWENTY MORE YEARS. IF YOU ARE GOING TO RETIRE EARLIER AND LIVE LONGER, IT IS NEVER TOO EARLY TO BEGIN YOUR FISCAL PLANNING AS WELL AS DEVELOP HOBBIES FOR THE GOLDEN YEARS. THE ECONOMISTS FEEL THEY KNOW HOW TO SOLVE SUCH PROBLEMS, BUT THEY MAINTAIN OUR POLITICIANS REFUSAL TO FOLLOW THEIR PROFESSIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

YOU ARE ALL FAMILIAR WITH THE BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF "TITHING". AS GRADUATES OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERISTY, I WOULD HOPE YOU INITIATE THE PRINCIPLE OF REMEMBERING YOUR ALMA MATER THE FIRST YEAR AND EVERY YEAR THEREAFTER. THE OLD CLICHE' THAT STATE SCHOOLS DON'T NEED OUTSIDE FUNDS

IS AS OUTMODED AS THE MODEL-T FORD. AS PRESIDENT JENNINGS HAS POINTED OUT, OUR STATE-SUPPORTED SCHOOLS MAY HAVE TO BEHAVE IN THE FUTURE LIKE PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS. REGARDLESS OF WARS AND OTHER ADVERSITIES, THE UNIVERSITY WILL SURVIVE AND I HAVE COMPLETE CONFIDENCE THAT YOU WILL BE PROUDER OF YOUR ALMA MATER EVERY YEAR FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!

A UNIVERSITY MAY BE NATIONALLY KNOWN IN THE SPORTS PAGES, BUT IT IS THE FACULTY THAT MAKES ITS REPUTATION BY TEACHING, RESEARCH, AND LANDMARK CONTRIBUTIONS TO MANKIND. IT HAS BEEN STIMULATING TO SEE THE INCREASING NUMBER OF ENDOWED CHAIRS IN THE VARIOUS COLLEGES OF THIS UNIVERSITY. THIS TREND, COMBINED WITH THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF THE PRESIDENT'S CLUB HAS INITIATED A TRADITION THAT WILL ENSURE THE CONTNUED GREATNESS OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY. WE HAVE MANY NEW BUILDINGS BUT I SOMETIMES WONDER HOW THE FACULTY FARES IN THE SAME BUILDING I WAS IN MORE THAN 60 YEARS AGO, BUT WITH FOUR OR FIVE TIMES THE NUMBER

OF STUDENTS PASSING THROUGH THE CLASSROOMS. BASED ON MY OBSERVATIONS OF OVER 60 YEARS, I WOULD PLACE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY ON THE CURRENT TRENDS OF CONCERN FOR CONTINUING TO UPGRADE THE FACULTY, BOTH IN NUMBER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS. NEW BUILDINGS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED BUT IN MY JUDGMENT THEY CAN BE EMPTY SHELLS WITHOUT EXCELLENT SENIOR TEACHERS AND WORTHWHILE RESEARCH ACTIVITY. NEW BUILDINGS CAN BE SEEN WHEN COMPLETED IN A YEAR OR TWO, BUT THE HERITAGE OF EXCELLENT TEACHING AND RESEARCH MAY TAKE YEARS TO DECLARE RECOGNIZABLE DIVIDENDS. WE MUST ASK OURSELVES JUST WHAT PERCENTAGE OF OUR TEACHING SHOULD BE DONE BY SENIOR FACULTY RATHER THAN BY INSTRUCTORS, FELLOWS, OR RESEARCH ASSISTANTS. THE DAILY PARTICIPATION BY THE SENIOR FACULTY IN THE TEACHING PROGRAM IS ONE OF THE BIG POINTS EMPHASIZED BY THOSE WHO CHAMPION THE SMALL PRIVATE SCHOOLS. WITH THE SUSTAINED FINANCIAL HELP OF OUR GRADUATES, WE CAN CONTINUE TO MAKE SATISFACTORY PROGRESS IN UPGRADING OUR TEACHING AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES, BY YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNCOMMITTED

FUNDS OUR LEADERS WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE ON THE SPOT COMMITMENTS TO MUCH NEEDED ADDITIONS TO OUR FACULTY, RATHER THAN MISS THE OPPORTUNITY BECAUSE STATE BUDGET LEVEL DETERMINATIONS HAVE BEEN UNDULY DELAYED. SOME UNIVERSITIES ATTRACT SCHOLARS AND NOBEL LAUREATES, BECAUSE OF THE LONG ESTABLISHED TRADITIONS AS WELL AS THE OPPORTUNITIES, BOTH PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL WHICH ARE AVAILABLE TO THEM. LIKE THE COMMERCIAL FOR COMPUTERS: "BIGGER ISN'T NECESSARILY BETTER," AND OUR UNIVERSITY WILL SURELY GIVE A BETTER ACCOUNT OF ITSELF AS THE INCREASED REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION ARE ACTIVATED.

IT WOULD TAKE ME THE REST OF THE DAY TO RELATE THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY EACH COLLEGE OF THIS GREAT UNIVERSITY DURING RECENT YEARS. YOU ARE OUR JEWELS OF THE HOUR AND WE KNOW THE LIGHT YOU SHED IN FUTURE YEARS WILL MAKE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY LOOK GOOD, AND YOUR UNIVERSITY IN TURN, WILL BE REFLECTED FAVORABLY IN YOUR ASSURED ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PROUD THAT I AM A GRADUATE OF THE
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY AND WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO BE AN
ACTIVE MEMBER OF ITS FACULTY FOR 28 YEARS. YOU TOO WILL
APPRECIATE YOUR ALMA MATER MORE AND MORE EACH YEAR, SO
RETURN AND VISIT IT REGULARLY. BECOME INVOLVED AND
CONTRIBUTE IN EVERY WAY YOU CAN TO ITS CONTINUED VIGOR,
GROWTH, AND INFLUENCE. I JOIN WITH THE FACULTY, YOUR
FAMILY, AND FRIENDS IN OFFERING EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU
OUR SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS AND AS A FELLOW ALUMNUS, I
ENTHUSIASTICALLY WELCOME YOU BUCKEYES INTO THE FOLD OF THE
SCARLET AND GRAY!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.